Person per annum to the State Governments on fulfilling the stipulated terms and conditions for improvement of medical scheme. There was no discussion in the meeting of the ESI Corporation held on 23.12.2006 regarding reimbursement of expenses over the prescribed ceiling. The ESI Corporation has issued instructions conveying the enhancement of ceiling to State Governments on 24.01.2007.

Regional branches of EPF Appellate Tribunal

4529. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases are pending before the EPF Appellate Tribunal;

(b) what is the rate of disposal of cases before the EPF Appellate Tribunal during the last one year; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish regional benches of Employees Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As on 31.3.2007, 4160 cases are pending before the EPF Appellate Tribunal.

(b) 267 cases were disposed of in the year 2006-07.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to establish additional benches is under examination.

Pension fund scheme for unorganised sector

4530. SHRI. N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create pension fund scheme for the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the approximate number of beneficiaries estimated to be covered by this scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government is considering formulation of social security schemes and enactment of central legislation for unorganized sector workers in consultation with various stakeholders, concerned Ministries/Departments. The details of the schemes to be implemented are yet to be finalized.

Upgradation of ITIs

4531. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the scheme to upgrade 100 ITIs into Centers of Excellence;

(b) what is the status of another 400 ITIs to be upgraded with the assistance from World Bank;

(c) what is the level and mode of involvement of private sector in upgrading these ITIs, as envisaged by industry associations; and

(d) what is the rate of placement from these ITIs at conclusion of the training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A scheme for upgradation of 100 Government ITIs with domestic funding was approved in March, 2005. These 100 ITI were distributed in 22 States and Union Territory administrations with 75:25 funding pattern, to be shared between Central and State Governments respectively. Training in all the above ITIs has sonce been started. Central funds to the tune of Rs. 42 crore have so far been released for upgradation of these 100 ITIs.

(b) For remaining 400 Government run ITIs, the Ministry is in dialogue with the World Bank for providing financial assistance. EFC meeting for the World Bank Assisted Project, *iter-alia* upgradation of 400 ITIs was held on 8.5.2007. Meanwhile, Government of India haas identified 100 ITIs out of the above mentioned 400 ITIs in different States during 2006-07 for upgradation. The State Governments have been adivsed, as part of advance